

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of estimating ~~the time required a schedule~~ for testing specified software, comprising the steps of:  
~~determining a preliminary estimating a number of test cases as a function of based on a number of~~ received problem reports for the specified software; and  
~~modifying the preliminary estimated number of test cases using historic data from similar software projects to produce an estimated time, similar to said specified software to provide an estimate of said required time.~~  
modifying the preliminary estimated number of test cases using historic data from similar software projects to produce an estimated time, similar to said specified software to provide an estimate of said required time.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining ~~estimating~~ a number of test cases includes raising the number of received problem reports to an exponent less than one, and then adding a number thereto.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the historic data ~~includes data indicating the amount of resources dedicated to testing the software, is combined into a Test Execution Factor used to modify the preliminary number of test cases to provide said estimate of said required time.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of determining ~~estimating~~ and modifying are performed on an information processing system.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an estimated time of estimating a schedule for testing specified software, said method comprising operating a data processing system to perform the steps of:  
~~determining a preliminary estimating a number of test cases from a prespecified relationship between said number of test cases, and based on a number of received problem reports for the specified~~ software;  
scaling the preliminary number of test cases by a first factor to produce a first result, wherein the first factor is derived from historic data from software projects similar to said specified software; and  
scaling the first result by a second factor to produce an estimated time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining ~~estimating~~ a number of test cases includes raising the number of received problem reports to an exponent less than one, and then adding a number thereto.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~first factor is derived from historic data from similar projects, is combined into a Test Execution Factor used to modify the preliminary number of test cases to produce said estimated time.~~
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second factor is derived from data including the amount of resources dedicated to testing the software.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the steps of determining ~~estimating~~ a number of test cases, scaling the number of test cases, and scaling the first result are performed on an information processing system.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ In a data processing system, apparatus for estimating the time required ~~a schedule~~ for testing software, said apparatus comprising:  
    a first processing component for determining a number of test cases as a function of first data indicating the number of problem reports received for the specified software; [[and]]  
    ~~second data indicating the amount of resources dedicated to testing the software;~~  
    ~~wherein the first data are used to estimate a number of test cases;~~  
    ~~wherein a second processing component for scaling the number of test cases is scaled by historic data to produce a scaled number of test cases; and~~  
    ~~wherein a third processing component for scaling the scaled number of test cases is scaled by~~ [[the]] second data[[.]] indicating the amount of resources dedicated to testing the number of test cases.
11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the number of test cases is determined ~~estimated~~ by raising the first data to an exponent less than one, and then adding a number thereto.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the historic data is gathered from testing of ~~similar software~~ [[.]] similar to the specified software.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~As~~ In an information processing system, a computer program product in a computer readable medium for providing an estimated time for estimating a schedule for testing specified software, said computer program product comprising:

first computer readable instructions for determining a preliminary estimating a number of test cases as a function of based on a number of received problem reports for the specified software;

second computer readable instructions for scaling the preliminary number of test cases by a first factor to produce a first result, wherein the first factor is derived from historic data from software projects similar to said specified software; and

third computer readable instructions for scaling the first result by a second factor to produce an estimated time.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the step of ~~determining~~ estimating a number of test cases includes raising the number of received problem reports to an exponent less than one, and then adding a number thereto.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the ~~first factor~~ is derived from historic data from similar projects. is combined into a Test Execution Factor used to modify the preliminary number of test cases to produce said estimated time.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the second factor is derived from data including the amount of resources dedicated to testing the software.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim 13, wherein the steps of ~~determining~~ estimating a number of test cases, scaling the number of test cases, and scaling the first result are performed on an information processing system.